

REMARKS

Prior to the present Amendment and Reply, claims 1-32 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 7, 11, 21, 29, and 32 have been amended herein. Claims 14-20 have been canceled. Accordingly, following the entry of the present Amendment, Claims 1-13, and 21-32 will be pending in the application.

The Examiner has requested that Applicants verify if an IDS was submitted on January 3, 2002 for the present patent application. Applicants have no record of submitting an IDS on this date. Applicants have a record of the IDS submitted on March 19, 2002, and the Examiner has considered the references cited therein. The PALM record showing an IDS submitted on January 3, 2002 appears to be erroneous.

The Examiner has also requested that Applicants provide additional information, if available, on Great Plains Software for Accounting or Microsoft Profit. Enclosed is additional information for Microsoft Profit. Applicants do not have readily available additional information on the Great Plains software.

Claims 1, 3-11, 13-17, and 19-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the commercial product on a computer readable medium with memory and screen support "Setup Factory", User's Guide by Indigo Rose, 1998 (hereinafter referred to as "Factory") in view of "Profit: business management gets cute", PC Magazine, vol. 12, no. 8, pg. 54, April 27, 1993 (hereinafter referred to as "Profit"). Claims 2, 12, 18, and 24 have been rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Factory and Profit as applied to claim 1, and further in view of basic use of Encryption as taught by Computer Security Basics from 1991 (hereinafter referred to as "Encryption"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The independent claims have been amended to more clearly recite the previously implicit relations between the software installation and end user. Dependent claim 4 has been amended to be consistent with independent claim 1.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a method in a computer system for enabling the development of installation software, the method comprising the steps of: (a) generating at least one question definition screen; (b) entering at least one question on the at least one generated question definition screen, the at least one question entered being designed to solicit information from a first user relating to a business of the first user; (c) determining whether additional information relating to the business of the first user is necessary to install a software package on a computer system of the first user, the software package comprising executable instructions to perform a plurality of tasks wherein at least one of the tasks requires the additional information; (d) if additional information is necessary, providing links to next questions to solicit additional information; and (e) if additional information is not necessary, compiling the at least one entered question into installation software designed to solicit information from the first user relating to the business of the first user such that the software package can be installed on the system of the first user.

The cited references, taken alone or in combination, provide no teaching, suggestion, or motivation for the claimed method. Factory is a setup authoring tool that enables software developers to generate installation software to install the software on other systems. Importantly, Factory teaches a setup that is used for all systems on which the software is installed, and does not address the configuration of software once installed on a system. As described on page 9, the only selectivity in installations is the type of installation that is performed, such as complete, typical, minimum, and custom. These installation types are further described at pages 53-54, where it is again specifically states that “you give the user a choice of four different package groupings (called installation types).” Once the installation software is complete, the necessary files are generated in an installation package that is then used by end users to install the software. Importantly, the same installation package is used by the different end users regardless of the application of the end user. Factory contains no teaching or suggestion of different installation packages for different end users or different configurations of the software that are specific to an end user once installed.

Profit simply discloses an accounting software application. A user of Profit may set up bank accounts, accounts receivable, and the like. However, similarly to the disclosure in Factory, Profit has no teaching or suggestion of installation software that is generated based on

questions that are entered for a first user. As noted at page 31 of the enclosed Profit software companion “[f]or the most part, you don’t have to make any decisions during the installation process....” With respect to installation options, Profit provides only two options, namely express and custom. As indicated at page 31, and in Appendix C at page 355, express installation is a standard installation where files are placed into a default directory on the user’s system. A custom installation is one in which a user may specify a directory where Profit is to be installed, and/or a user may skip installing, or install only, sample data files and online help files. The article referenced by the Examiner described various wizards that are included in the Profit software that are executed after the software is installed on a user’s system. These wizards execute using the installed software to obtain standard information related to the user.

Further, Profit discloses an installation program usable by the first user. Claim 1, however, relates to the “development of the installation software.” Profit has no teaching, disclosure, or suggestions regarding how the installation software is developed. Rather, Profit simply discloses using already developed installation software. The applicants respectfully submit that the Profit installation software is programmed line by line in a conventional manner and does not provide the steps outlined. In particular, because the installation software is likely programmed line by line in a conventional manner, it is unlike the claimed installation software is or needs to be compiled.

As can be seen from the above discussion of the cited references, there is no teaching, suggestion, or motivation for the method as claimed in claim 1. More specifically, because the references contemplate only a single installation setup for respective software applications regardless of the business of the end user, the cited references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the steps of claim 1. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. Furthermore, claims 2-6 and 27 depend (directly or indirectly) from claim 1, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as described with respect to claim 1.

Independent claim 7 is directed to an apparatus for enabling the development of installation software wizards, comprising: (a) at least one memory; (b) at least one executable file stored in the at least one memory; (c) the at least one executable file comprising at least one instruction for providing at least one question definition screen; (d) a monitor; (e) at least one processing unit to execute the at least one instruction to display the at least one question

definition screen to at least one intermediate user, the at least one processing unit includes at least one input so the at least one intermediate user can input at least a first question, the first question to solicit information from an end user relating to a business of the end user, such that the first end user can input business information specific to the first end user different than business information specific to a second end user and (f) a compiler to write all the received information, wherein the received information is saved for the first end user.

The cited references, as discussed above, contemplate only a single installation for any end user of the software product installed according to the references. Therefore, it is submitted that independent claim 7 is patentable over the cited references. Furthermore, claims 8-10 and depend (directly or indirectly) from claim 7, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as described with respect to claim 7.

Independent claim 11 is directed to a computer program product comprising: a computer usable medium having a computer readable code embodied therein for processing data to develop installation software wizards to assist end users in installing business related software on a computer system of an end user, the computer usable medium comprising: (a) a question generation module configured to generate at least one question definition screen; (b) a receiving module configured to receive at least one question designed to solicit information from a first end user relating to a business of the first end user; (c) a determining module configured to determine whether the business related software requires additional information for the business related software installation for the first end user; (d) a linking module configured to provide links to next questions if additional information is determined to be needed to install the business related software for the first end user; (e) a saving module configured to save the at least one received question; and (f) a compiling module configured to write the at least one received question saved by the saving module into the installation software wizard for the first end user.

The cited references, as discussed above, contemplate only use of already developed installation software and a single installation for any end user of the software product installed according to the references. Therefore, it is submitted that independent claim 11 is patentable over the cited references. Furthermore, claims 12-13 and depend (directly or indirectly) from claim 11, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as described with respect to claim 11.

Claims 14-20 have been canceled.

Independent claim 21 is directed to a method for generating a software installation application to install business related software where the business related software requires business operating information from an end user to be properly installed, the business related information being specific to a business of a specific end user and necessary to install the business related software package for the specific end user; the method comprising the steps performed on a computer of: (a) identifying a plurality of business operating information necessary to install the business related software; (b) generating at least one edit question screen; the at least one edit question screen having a first input field for an intermediate user to enter at least one question designed to solicit business operating information from an end user; the at least one edit question screen having a second input field for the intermediate user to insert jump information, the jump information linking to at least one next question designed to solicit additional business operating information from the end user based on a plurality of possible answers from the end user to the at least one question; (c) inputting the at least one question and the jump information; (d) determining whether additional business operating information is necessary to complete installation of the business related software; (e) if additional information is necessary, generating a next question edit screen and inputting another at least one question and jump information; and (g) if additional information is not necessary, compiling a business software installation application using generated questions and linked generated next questions to solicit business operating information from the end user.

The cited references, as discussed above, contemplate use of already developed installation software and only a single installation for any end user of the software product installed according to the references. The references contain no teaching, suggestion or motivation for a business related software installation package that solicits business related information being specific to a business of a specific end user and necessary to install the business related software package for the specific end user. Therefore, it is submitted that independent claim 21 is patentable over the cited references. Furthermore, claims 22-26 and 28 depend (directly or indirectly) from claim 21, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as described with respect to claim 21.

Independent claim 29 is directed to a computer program product comprising: a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing data to create a business software installation application, the computer usable medium comprising: (a) a business information solicitation module configured to generate and display an edit question screen, the edit question screen having a first input field for an intermediate user to enter a plurality of questions designed to solicit business operating information from an end user corresponding to a plurality of possible answers that are specific to the end user, and a second input field for the intermediate user to insert a plurality of jump information, the plurality of jump information corresponds to the plurality of possible answers and a business installation software application to a next question based on an answer to be provided by the end user; (b) an input module configured to accept input from the intermediate user regarding the plurality of questions, the plurality of possible answers, and the plurality of jump information; and (c) a compiling module configured to write the plurality of questions, the plurality of possible answers, and the plurality of jump information into the business software installation application.

The cited references, as discussed above, contemplate use of already developed installation software and only a single installation for any end user of the software product installed according to the references. The references contain no teaching, suggestion or motivation of an intermediate user to enter a plurality of questions designed to solicit business operating information from an end user corresponding to a plurality of possible answers that are specific to the end user. Therefore, it is submitted that independent claim 29 is patentable over the cited references. Furthermore, claims 30-31 depend (directly or indirectly) from claim 29, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as described with respect to claim 29.

Independent claim 32 is directed to a computer program product: (a) a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing data to install a business software application, the computer usable medium comprising; (b) an identifying module configured to identify at least one software package to be installed; (c) a displaying module configured to display at least one question inputted by an intermediate user to solicit business operating information from at least a first end user needed to install the business software application on a system of the first end user; (d) an input module configured to receive the business operating information solicited by the displaying module; (e) a jump module

configured to jump to a next question to solicit additional business operating information from the first end user needed to install the business software application, the jump module jumps to the next question based on jump information provided by the intermediate user and business operating information from the first end user; and (f) a system configuration module configured to install the business software application once necessary business operating information is received.


The cited references, as discussed above, contemplate use of already developed installation software and only a single installation for any end user of the software product installed according to the references. Therefore, it is submitted that independent claim 32 is patentable over the cited references.

No claim related fees are believed to be due with this response. In the event any such fees are due, please debit Deposit Account 08-2623.

The application now appearing to be in form for allowance, reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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